



# APD NEWS

Public Information Office: (512) 974-5017

715 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St. Austin, Texas 78701

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1, 2009

Contact: Public Information Office, 974-5017

### **APD gives citizens Burglary of Vehicle and Auto Theft Safety Tips**

On Wednesday, September 2, 2009 the Downtown District Representatives along with the APD Auto Theft Interdiction Unit will be providing citizens with burglary of vehicle and auto theft safety tips. Thieves have been targeting Shopping Malls, Apartment Complexes, Hike & Bike Trails, Hospitals and any large parking facilities including residential driveways.

Most of these crimes could have been prevented if drivers would have taken the few extra moments to hide their belongings, lock their vehicles and take their keys. Leaving your keys in the car may just make you an unsuspecting accomplice to a more serious crime. It only takes seconds for a thief to steal your car and your identity. These crimes can affect the whole community, resulting in higher insurance rates.

Items stolen include lap tops computers, purses, wallets, cell phones, cameras, credit cards, GPS systems, radios, CDs and other items left in plain view.

APD reminds citizens to protect your vehicles from auto theft and burglary of vehicle by taking precautions that will make your vehicle less of a target:

- **Lock Your Car** – don't make it easier for a thief to enter your vehicle.
- **Never leave your car running**, even if you will only be gone for a minute – In Texas, leaving your key in an unattended motor vehicle is a crime
- **Don't leave valuables in plain view** – don't make your car a more desirable target by leaving valuables in plain sight.

The APD Auto Theft Interdiction Project programs are funded through the Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority to reduce auto and burglary theft in the State of Texas.

**Media Advisory:** Downtown District Representatives will be available for interview on Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2009 at 7 a.m. under the Mopac Bridge near the Hike and Bike Trail on the north side of the river. Call APD PIO if you plan to attend.

###

